ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 05125.0001U1
APPLICATION NO. 09/944,288

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Canceled)

2. (Amended) The method claimed in claim ~~1~~ 22, further comprising the step of, prior to the step of providing the host access to a storage device, copying the operating system to the storage device from another device of the storage system.

Claims 3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Amended) The method claimed in claim [4] 22, wherein the control station queries the Fibre Channel switch in response to a notification received from the host via an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

6. (Original) The method claimed in claim 5, wherein the host connects to the IP network using a DHCP protocol.

Claims 7-10. (Canceled)

11. (Amended) The method claimed in claim ~~10~~ 22, wherein the database uses the lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP).

12. (Amended) A ~~network~~ system for automatically configuring a diskless host computer upon being physically connected to a network, comprising:

at least one diskless host computer that automatically boots an operating system as a result of being connected to the network;

a storage system on which are stored a plurality of host configurations, each configuration including an operating system ~~different from the operating system of all other configurations of the plurality of configurations~~;

a switch coupled to each diskless host computer and having a plurality of ports, each port coupled to the storage system; and

a control station computer monitoring for receipt of an identifier transmitted by the diskless host computer to the switch, looking up a configuration corresponding to the received identifier, and directing the switch to provide the diskless host computer access to a storage device on which the operating system is stored.

13. (Original) The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the storage system copies the operating system to the storage device from another device of the storage system.

14. (Original) The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the identifier is a World Wide Name (WWN) received from the host in accordance with a Fibre Channel log-in protocol, and wherein each WWN corresponds to a configuration.

15. (Original) The system claimed in claim 14, wherein the a control station computer queries the Fibre Channel switch for the WWN and looks up the configuration in a database in response to the WWN.

16. (Original) The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the control station computer looks up the configuration in a database operating under the lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP).

Claims 17-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) A method for automatically booting a diskless host computer upon being connected to a Fibre Channel network, comprising:

physically connecting the diskless host computer to the network;

receiving at a Fibre Channel switch a World Wide Name (WWN) from the diskless host computer in accordance with a Fibre Channel log-in protocol;

looking up a configuration corresponding to the received identifier, each configuration including an operating system different from the operating system of all other configurations of the plurality of configurations;

querying by a control station computer the Fibre Channel switch for the WWN;

looking up by the control station computer the configuration in a database in response to the WWN, each WWN having a corresponding configuration;

providing the diskless host computer access to a storage device on which the operating system is stored; and

the diskless host computer booting from the operating system stored on the storage device in response to being connected to network.

23. (New) A method for automatically booting a diskless computer upon being physically connected to a network, comprising:

physically connecting the diskless host computer to the network;

transmitting, in response to being physically connected to the network, an identifier from the diskless computer;

receiving the identifier by a control station computer;

querying by the control station computer a database with the identifier to determine an operating system, wherein the database associates the identifier with an operating system;

determining a storage device on which the operating system is stored;

copying the operating system from the storage device to the diskless computer over the network; and

booting, as a result of being physically connected to the network, the diskless computer from the operating system.

24. (New) The method claimed in claim 23, wherein the network comprises an IP network.

25. (New) The method claimed in claim 24, wherein the diskless computer connects to the IP network using a DHCP protocol.

26. (New) The method claimed in claim 23, wherein the network comprises a Fibre Channel network.

27. (New) The method claimed in claim 26, wherein the identifier is unique to an adapter used to connect the diskless computer to the network.